

68TH LEGISLATURE—REGULAR SESSION

FUHRMANN ENERGY HAZARDOUS-WASTE SITE—
CLEANUP FUNDING

H. C. R. No. 88

WHEREAS, Property owned by Fuhrmann Energy, located in Houston on Caniff Road adjacent to the western limits of the city of South Houston, has been identified by the Texas Department of Water Resources (TDWR) as a hazardous-waste site; and

WHEREAS, Under its current and previous owners, the property has accumulated various stores of improperly managed hazardous wastes, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) that have escaped into drainage ditches leading from the property and that have contaminated surface and subsurface soils to the depths of the underground water table. Surface contamination of the soil extends to within a short distance of South Houston Elementary School, located only a few blocks away in South Houston in the Pasadena Independent School District. Underground water contaminants have not penetrated South Houston's municipal water supplies, nor any nearby water wells under the regulatory authority of the Harris-Galveston Coastal Subsidence District, but contamination of the water table nevertheless poses an ongoing serious threat to public health; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress, via the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), established a "superfund" to support the cleanup of hazardous-waste sites throughout the nation. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has since announced the inclusion of 418 sites, eight of which are in Texas, on a National Priorities List of sites that are to be targeted for initial cleanup under the superfund. Being a recently identified site, the Fuhrmann Energy property is not among the eight National Priorities List sites in Texas, but it has been ranked by the TDWR as being at least as hazardous, and it has been formally proposed by the TDWR for addition to the list when it is revised in the spring or summer of this year; and

RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, Until such time as the revision is made and cleanup is consequently implemented by means of the superfund, the Fuhrmann Energy property represents a continuing threat of direct contact between hazardous substances and the nearby populace. Aside from the PCBs that have contaminated surrounding soils and subsurface water, the property is littered with asbestos materials resulting from the owner's recent salvage attempts. It also houses a potentially dangerous tank of chlorine, and it contains approximately 300 drums of assorted chemical raw products and chemical wastes, many of which have been found to be unlabelled, open, in deteriorating condition, or exposed to the elements, with consequent potential for spillage during periodic rains; and

WHEREAS, A temporary expedient for mitigation of the problem exists in the form of the EPA's "planned removal" program (40 CFR Part 300.67), by which a governor or his or her designee may officially request up to one million dollars in funding for stopgap cleanup measures at hazardous waste sites not yet included on the National Priorities List. Thus, the TDWR, besides securing a restraining order to prevent further disturbance of, or pollutant discharge from, the property, has acted as the official designee of the Governor of Texas to formally request planned removal funding for the Fuhrmann site; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the State of Texas, the Senate concurring, That the 68th Legislature, cognizant of the serious situation that exists at the Fuhrmann Energy hazardous-waste site in Houston, hereby lend its full support to the request by the Texas Department of Water Resources for cleanup funding for that site under the planned removal program of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state send an official copy of this resolution to President Ronald Reagan with the legislature's request that he forward it to the administrator of

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the EPA and use all available means to expedite the release of planned removal funding for the cleanup of the Fuhrmann Energy hazardous-waste site.

Adopted by the House on March 30, 1983, by a non-record vote; adopted by the Senate on May 26, 1983.

Approved May 28, 1983.

Filed with the Secretary of State, May 28, 1983.

COMMENDATION—VERA ELEANOR TAYLOR

H. C. R. No. 89

WHEREAS, Vera Eleanor Taylor, an outstanding and invaluable employee with the Texas Department of Human Resources for many years, has capably and commendably served as the Capitol's full-time registered nurse in charge of maintaining its First Aid Station since 1971; and

WHEREAS, While performing this important and responsible job, Miss Taylor has admirably assisted the station's physicians in providing over 1,200 patient services to the presiding officers and members of the legislature, their guests and staff, and the many citizens of the state visiting the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, This noteworthy woman was born and raised in Gatesville and later received her medical training at Seton School of Nursing, graduating in 1944 as a registered nurse; and

WHEREAS, She worked as a private duty nurse and obstetrics supervisor at Seton Hospital before becoming an administrative assistant and psychiatric nurse for a private clinic, a position she held for the next 20 years; and

WHEREAS, In 1967, Miss Taylor began her long and rewarding association with the State Department of Welfare, now the Texas Department of Human Resources, as a nursing consultant; she also served in a variety of capacities for the department until 1976, the year she was transferred to the Child Care Licensing Program; and